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PROGRAM NBC News on the Hour

STATION WRC Radio and
NBC Network

DATE January 26, 1965 7:00 P.M.

CITY Washington, D. C.

A DIM VIEW OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN VIET NAM

ROBERT McCORMICK: "The news in brief -- Chairman Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee takes a dim view of what is happening in South Viet Nam. More on this --

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"The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today was briefed by Central Intelligence Director McCone. When McCone left the meeting on the first floor of the Capitol Building on the Senate side, he was somewhat less taciturn than usual. He said, as I recall, 'we had a very informative discussion,' meaning a very informative discussion with the Foreign Relations Committee. Then McCone added, with a big grin, 'for more information you'll have to talk to the Chairman.' The Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee is Fulbright of Arkansas, and when we began to ask him questions, he said, with characteristic evasiveness, 'You know I can't tell you what we were told in a secret briefing, and I can't understand,' he added, 'why you wait around to talk to us.'

"However, Fulbright did say that the Buddhist uprising in South Viet Nam was very distressing, as he put it, and he implied that nothing McCone told the Committee gave them any reason for optimism about what is going on in Viet Nam. This is certainly borne out by the news dispatches this evening. The United States officials have estimated today that the overall strength of the Communist Viet Cong in South Viet Nam is somewhere around 100,000 men.

"Meanwhile the crisis in South Viet Nam has become more serious -- when a 17-year old girl burned herself to death as a protest against the present Vietnamese government . . ."